

App. No. 09/682,070

**In the Abstract:**

Per Examiner's request, a substitute Abstract is attached below:

**Abstract of Disclosure**

This invention comprises a method to manage the efficient routing of messages in a multi-hop network. This method can be implemented using a low cost, low processing power hardware platform, whereby each network node consists of an 8-bit microcontroller and additional peripherals. The data storage unit (118) is implemented by an external memory. This method uses four internal data buffers and an extremely efficient algorithm to manage traffic of messages and buffers within the microcontroller.